

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph 6 on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

The first type of cells can be animal cells and the second type of cells are bacteria cells. In some other embodiments, the first type of cells are animal ??? cells and the second type of cells are plant cells or fungi (yeast) cells. In such embodiments, the lysis agent can be a detergent or incubation with a detergent.

Please replace paragraph 84 on page 20 with the following amended paragraph:

The method can also be used to separate bacterial cells from ~~difference~~ different species. For example, the first type of cells can be gram negative bacteria and the second type of cells can be gram positive bacteria. The lysis agent can be a relatively mild lysosome ~~digestion~~ digesting agent followed by a cell membrane lysis agent with the conditions that ~~is sufficient~~ are sufficient to lyse the first type of cells but not the second type of cells; applying the lysis agent to break the first type of cells; removing at least 60% of the second type of cells to obtain an isolate; preparing a nucleic acid sample from the isolate.

Please insert a line after the word EXAMPLES on paragraph 0129 on page 30 of the specification as follows:

EXAMPLES

This example shows the isolation of animal RNA from a cell mixture containing cultured animal cells and E. coli.

Please replace paragraph 0125 on page 29 with the following amended paragraph:

The confocal microscope may be automated with a computer-controlled stage to automatically scan the entire high density array. Similarly, the microscopy may be equipped with a phototransducer (e.g. a photomultiplier, a solid state array, a CCD camera, etc.) attached to an automated data acquisition system to automatically record the fluorescence signal produced by hybridization to each oligonucleotide probe on the array. Such automated systems are described at least in U.S. Patent No: 5,143,854, PCT Application ~~20-92/10092~~ WO9210092A1, and U.S. ~~Application Ser. No. 08/195,889~~ Patent No.: 5,631,734 filed ~~on February 10, 1994~~. Use of laser illumination in conjunction with automated confocal microscopy for signal detection permits detection at a resolution of better than about 100 μm , more preferably better than about 50 μm , and most preferably better than about 25 μm .